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(54) Title: PRODUCTION OF RECOMBINANT MONELLIN USING METHYLOTROPHIC YEAST EXPRESSION SYSTEM

(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to a single–chain monellin–like protein which is stable and which is at least 100–fold sweet as compared to sucrose on the weight basis. The present invention also relates to a nucleic acid encoding said monellin–like protein. Preferably, the nucleic acid further comprises a promoter and a signal sequence for directing expression and secretion of the encoded monellin–like protein in the methylothrophic yeast *Pichia pastoris*. The present invention further relates to a recombinant *Pichia pastoris* cell containing the nucleic acid encoding the monellin–like protein, a process for producing the monellin–like protein from the recombinant *Pichia pastoris* and product of the process.